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Chicago Scene 'Like Wartime'

CHICAGO (AP)— Police shot their way into a Black Panther headquarters during a predawn gunfight Thursday. Shotgun blasts wounded five policemen and three Negro men were injured.

Each side said the other started the shooting.

The three Negroes were charged with attempted murder after the 30-minute battle, witnessed by 300 residents of the predominantly black neighborhood. The three were treated for head cuts that police said were caused by flying glass.

Richard D. Curley, the only injured patrolman admitted to a hospital, was the first officer to fall. He and his partner, Edward Kendzior, said they were fired at from the second floor of the Illinois headquarters of the Black Panther party.

Kendzior said they stopped their squad car in front of the building when they saw two men with shotguns.

"As I ran out of the car we were fired upon," Kendzior said. "I returned the fire and jumped against a wall. Curley said, 'I'll get the shotgun.' Then he got shot."

Curley said: "The two men with shotguns ran back upstairs." More shooting ensued and 30 police cars arrived.

"It was like wartime," Curley said.

"When I got to the scene, I told them, 'Blow the door off and let's go in.' It took four shotgun blasts to shoot the door in," said Capt. Paul Gail, District Police Commander.

Patrolman Edwin Baal and another officer, using a ladder borrowed from a service station, began climbing to a second-floor porch. A shotgun blast struck Baal in the hands.

Patrolman Robert Flynn led another group up to the porch and found three men hiding

there. They were unarmed. Flynn said the men lunged at the police and, after brief hand-fighting, the arrests were made.

Joseph Haymon, 20, Larry White, 25, and Alvin Jeffrey, 25, were charged with attempted murder.

Inside the second-floor apartment, littered with party literature, police said they found five handguns, a sawed-off shotgun and a bayonet.

A small fire broke out on the second floor. Officials said it might have been caused by a stray bullet. They estimated damage at \$700.

Willie Calvin, a Panther defense captain, said the interior of the building was wrecked and \$3,000 in cash was missing. He charged that police started the battle.

"Some of our people fired, but they only fired in self-defense," he said.